

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 15 and 30 have been canceled, and claims 8, 13, and 14 have been amended. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7, and 31-35 are withdrawn.

Claims 8-14, and 16-29 are pending and under consideration.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112:

In the Office Action, at page 3, item 3, the Examiner rejected claims 9, and 14-29 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for the reasons set forth therein. The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated. Applicants traverse this rejection and respectfully request reconsideration.

Regarding claim 9, paragraphs [0021] and [0023] of the Specification recite:

“The blower 218 selectively blows relatively high and low pressure air into the chamber 106. ... The blower 218 selectively generates relatively high and low air pressure by drawing and compressing internal air of the chamber 106. The high-pressure compressed air generated by the blower 218 is supplied to the chamber through the plurality of vents 110, while moving along the internal ducts 302 positioned on both side walls of the chamber 106. The high-pressure compressed air creates a strong current of air around the clothes accommodated in the chamber 106, to uniformly spread odor and moisture contained in the clothes throughout an internal space of the chamber 106. The low-pressure compressed air discharged from the blower 218 is supplied to an upper portion of the chamber 106 through the external duct 112.”

Additionally, in paragraphs [0027], [0028], and 0030], the Specification discloses a non-limiting embodiment in which high pressure air is blown into the chamber 106 at a separate time, and via a separate duct, than low pressure air.

Applicants respectfully submit that in one non-limiting embodiment, the blower 218 may comprise a plurality of blowers operating to blow air at different pressures. In another non-limiting embodiment, the blower 218 may comprise a single blower that blow air at different pressures, and the ducts may be selectively employed.

Regarding claim 14, Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment of claim 14 overcomes the Examiner's rejection.

Regarding claim 23, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 23 claims that the sensor comprises: a humidity sensor; and a gas sensor; and a temperature sensor; and an ozone sensor.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103:

In the Office Action, at page 4, item 5, the Examiner rejected claims 8 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent Publication No. 2002-85898 – hereinafter JP85898. The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated. Applicants traverse this rejection and respectfully request reconsideration.

In the Office Action, at page 4, item 6, the Examiner rejected claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by Eisen (U.S. Patent No. 5,940,988 – hereinafter Eisen). The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated. Applicants traverse this rejection and respectfully request reconsideration.

In the Office Action, at page 4, item 6, the Examiner rejected claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by Dhaemers (U.S. Patent No. 5,546,678 – hereinafter Dhaemers). The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated. Applicants traverse this rejection and respectfully request reconsideration.

In the Office Action, at page 5, the Examiner rejected claims 8-13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ou (U.S. Patent No. 5,755,040 – hereinafter Ou '040) in view of JP85898 or Ferris (U.S. Patent No. 2,406,494 – hereinafter Ferris). The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated. Applicants traverse this rejection and respectfully request reconsideration.

In the Office Action, at page 6, item 11, the Examiner rejected claims 15-24 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dhaemers in view of JP85898 or Ferris. The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated. Applicants traverse this rejection and respectfully request reconsideration.

In the Office Action, at page 6, item 12, the Examiner rejected claim 29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dhaemers in view of JP85898 or Ferris, and further in view

of Eisen or Ou (U.S. Patent No. 5,555,640 – hereinafter Ou '640). The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated. Applicants traverse this rejection and respectfully request reconsideration.

In the Office Action, at page 7, item 13, the Examiner rejected claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ou '040 in view of Dhaemers. The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated. Applicants traverse this rejection and respectfully request reconsideration.

In the Office Action, at page 7, item 14, the Examiner rejected claims 15-30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ou '040 in view of Dhaemers and JP85898 or Ferris. The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated. Applicants traverse this rejection and respectfully request reconsideration.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 15 and 30 have been cancelled, and the subject matter of claim 15 has been incorporated into claim 14.

Amended, independent claim 8 recites: "...an ozonizer to automatically supply ozone into the chamber through at least one of the first or second ducts when an amount of odor of the clothes is greater than an odor reference value."

Amended, independent claim 13 recites: "...a control unit to automatically control the heater and the ozonizer to periodically perform a drying function and a deodorizing function according to automatically detected amounts of moisture and odor, respectively, of the clothes."

And amended, independent claim 14 recites: "...an ozonizer to selectively supply ozone to the chamber when an automatically detected odor level of the article of clothing exceeds a reference odor value; and an ozone disposer to selectively dispose of the ozone supplied to the chamber."

JP85898 discloses a degassing-type dryer with a heater 2 supplying warm air to a drying tank 6, and an ozonizer 3 supplying ozone to the drying tank 6. (See Derwent Abstract of JP85898).

Eisen discloses a dry cleaning apparatus 10 with a rotating drum that has: a heating element 128 with an internal air circulation blower 130; a drum shaft assembly 94, through which ozone is optionally transferred; and a vessel 132 containing water for moisturizing garments. (See Eisen, at col. 6, lines 9-10, and col. 7, lines 6-8, and 53-56). The apparatus also has

sensor output components 194-197 measuring pressure, flow rate, temperature, and time of processing, respectively. (See Eisen, at col. 9, lines 38-42). During operation of the apparatus, the garments to be dry-cleaned are inspected by an operator, who also applies stain remover, and air flushes and feathers the garments. (See Eisen, at col. 9, lines 20-23). As a result of the inspection, the operator decides whether to apply any of the optional treatments, such as the ozone treatment 262, or the ammonia treatment 264.

Dhaemers discloses a dryer with: a drying chamber 41; a heater 73; a humidity sensor 112 that controls a damper 110 based on moisture content of the air sensed by a probe 113; and an optional humidity producing unit. (See Dhaemers, at col. 4, line 62, col. 5, lines 6-7, col. 7, lines 35-36, and col. 8, lines 31-33).

Ou '040 and Ou '640 disclose similar drying devices. Ou '040, for example, discloses a dry chamber 3 with a plurality of air ducts 16 with apertures 161, a heat diffusion plate 28 with apertures 285, and a heater 21. Air heated by the heater is disbursed into the dry chamber 3 via the apertures 161 and 285, and exhausted via a suction fan 24. (See Ou '040, at col. 2, lines 28-36, and col. 3, lines 31-45).

And Ferris discloses a dryer that uses radiant heat from infra-red lamps 10 and air that is slightly heated by the lamps and blown into a drum to dry clothes. (See Ferris, at col. 1, lines 38-40, and col. 2, lines 13-21). The dryer also has an ozonizer 21 to cause a bleaching action and impart a fresh outdoor odor to the clothes. (See Ferris, at col. 2, lines 29-37). In addition to manual control of the dryer, Ferris also discloses an automatic control based on humidity and/or temperature of the blown air. (See Ferris, at col. 3, lines 1-20).

Applicants respectfully submit that none of the cited references, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest "...an ozonizer to automatically supply ozone into the chamber through at least one of the first or second ducts when an amount of odor of the clothes is greater than an odor reference value."

Additionally, regarding claim 14, none of the cited references, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest an ozone disposer.

Dependent claim 23 recites a sensor comprising: "...a humidity sensor; a gas sensor; a temperature sensor; and an ozone sensor."

Applicants respectfully submit that none of the cited references, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest an ozone sensor.

Dependent claim 9 recites: "...wherein the first pressure is relatively higher than the second pressure."

And dependent claim 26 recites: "...a second duct connected to the blower and communicating with the chamber to supply air at a second pressure."

Applicants respectfully submit that none of the cited references, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest supplying air to a chamber at multiple pressures.

Dependent claim 28 recites: "...wherein: the first duct is an internal duct; and the second duct is an external duct."

Applicants respectfully submit that none of the cited references, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest an external duct.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 8, 13, and 14 patentably distinguishes over the cited art, and should be allowable for at least the above-mentioned reasons. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 9-12, which ultimately depend from independent claim 8, and claims 16-29, which ultimately depend from independent claim 14, should be allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 8 and 14, as well as for the additional features recited therein.

CONCLUSION:

In accordance with the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot, and further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the cited art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

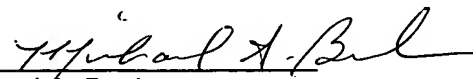
Serial No.: 10/790,781

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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